ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides processes for synthesizing compounds of formula I:

$$R_4$$
 R_3
 R_1

5

wherein R is H or alkyl; R_1 , R_2 are H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, fluorinated alkyl, -CN, alkyl sulfonamide, alkyl amide, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, fluorinated alkoxy, acyl, or aroyl; R_3 and R_4 are H, alkyl or cycloalkyl; the dashed line indicates an optional double bond; as well as intermediates and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10

15